

AUGUST 2004

ffa *new horizons*



THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION



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Megan McElfresh's dog breeding business yields money for college, real-world work experience and a national entrepreneurship award



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Megan McElfresh, of Sutton, Nebraska, is among the winners of the 2003 FFA Agri-Entrepreneurship Award.

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Blue & Gold

News from the National FFA Center

Learn. Lead. Succeed.

Planning for the upcoming 77th National FFA Convention (October 27-30) is now in high gear. This year's theme—Learn. Lead. Succeed.—sums up the experience awaiting you in Louisville.

For decades, the FFA convention has been a place where members shape FFA policy, receive recognition for their achievements and celebrate their involvement in the foremost student leadership organization in the world.

You'll have the opportunity to attend workshops, be inspired by motivational speakers, and interact with representatives from 350 leading companies and organizations in the food, fiber and natural resources industry.

A record-setting total of 51,338 FFA members and guests made the trip to the convention last fall. We hope to see you there!

For information on schedules, lodging and other convention planning information, visit the ffa.org convention page: www.ffa.org/convention/index.htm

Chief Operating Officer Named

Doug Loudenslager, a former FFA member and advisor, has been named chief operating officer of the National FFA Organization and National FFA Foundation. He replaces Bernie Staller, who recently retired after 13 years in the position.

Raised on an Ohio farm, Loudenslager became a state FFA officer in 1973 and a national FFA officer in 1975. With a degree in agricultural education, Loudenslager taught agriculture at Cory-Rawson High School in Ohio, where he rebuilt a lagging program.

Loudenslager later entered the business side of agriculture. He was communications manager for the Ohio Farmers Grain and Supply Association and later became executive director of the Ohio

Soybean Association, where he carried out educational, public relations and lobbying efforts. With a master's degree in business administration, Loudenslager brings solid business management experience to FFA. Since 1987, he has been with St. Louis-based Edward Jones Investments. Loudenslager assumed his new position in July.

Back From Costa Rica

Forty-five FFA members—selected from last year's national proficiency award finalists and American Star finalists—recently returned from Costa Rica, where they toured agricultural sites throughout this compact, yet agriculturally diverse, country.

"The global marketplace can be a difficult concept for students to grasp," says Larry D. Case, national

FFA advisor. "Visiting agribusinesses and talking to industry experts in Costa Rica helps students see the similarities to U.S. agriculture and better understand how what happens in Central America can have implications back home."

Double Honors

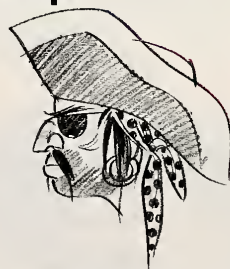
The National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEC) has selected national FFA officers Stacia Berry and Amy Rasmussen as winners of its annual Distinguished Service-Postsecondary Student Award.

The awards are given to those who have helped raise the level of excellence in career and technical education. The officers received the award in April at the NASDCTEC convention in Washington, D.C. ●

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FFA Talk

What's on your mind?

YOUR LETTERS

I greatly enjoy this magazine. Thanks for all your hard work!

Deanna Knighton
O'Brien, Florida

I love the New Horizons magazine. Not only is it interesting to read, it gives us information that can help us in the future and right now.

Carrie Ann Heffron
Starks, Louisiana

I love reading the magazines you send me. I have found a lot of inspiration from reading the articles in them. Thank you for providing me and my fellow FFA members with such a wonderful magazine.

Lauren Terry
Shelby, North Carolina

I just wanted to tell y'all how wonderful it is to know some people care to hear our jokes and other opinions and care to let us know we matter. And it's really great to pay kids like me to let our inner personalities show in things such as our jokes. Thanks for taking time to do this magazine for everyone.

Alisha Ross
Ratliff, Oklahoma

The **BIG** question:

What is your dream job?

Here is your chance to respond to an FFA- or agriculture-related question. We'll print some of your answers in future issues. We want to know—in 50 words or less—your answer to the following question: **What is your dream job?** Send your responses to the address at the bottom of this page.

Here are some of your responses that have already made their way to our mailbox:

I'm a sophomore and have been in ag classes for two years. I enjoy learning from ag teachers. They are

Show us your sign

Is there an FFA emblem painted on your neighbor's barn? Or outside your school? Or maybe there's a sign that says "FFA" on the highway just outside of town. Wherever it happens to be, we want to see it! Snap a photo and send it to us at the address at the bottom of this page. We'll feature one photo per issue. Be sure to include a brief story about it.



This issue's featured sign comes from the Wellston FFA Chapter in Oklahoma. Here is a picture of chapter members just after finishing their new sign outside of town. FFA Advisor Marty Coulson writes: "The Agricultural Mechanics class cut out the letters and animals, and other chapter members helped paint and hang the new sign."

wonderful people and teachers. Because of them, I want to be a teacher.

Katy Van O'Linda
Rogersville, Missouri

My dream job would be to become an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. I truly love working with kids and my advisor has inspired me to become one. I love to see what FFA offers and to see kids growing and learning through FFA and agriculture.

Tori Peebles
Kite, Georgia

I want to be a vet because I love to work with animals. Also I live on a farm and take care of my sick animals. I also have vet books that I read. So I think I will be good at it.

Sarah Hoover

Here are some submissions from the Otselic FFA Chapter in New York:

I want to be an agricultural mechanic.

Kyle Riedel

For my dream job, I would like to go into the social work program because I want to help people that are less fortunate than me.

Brandie Hazzard

My dream job is farming. I want to have the best Brown Swiss Herd in America and have all registered Brown Swiss.

Sarah Robinson

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web: www.ffa.org

National Officer Q&A

10 questions for Anne Knapke, FFA eastern region vice president

Describe the agricultural industry where you live.

Ohio is a melting pot of agricultural commodities. The northwest area of the state is very flat and provides great cropland and dairy and poultry production. The southern part of the state is more rolling hills, suitable for crop and livestock production, with the southeast area having a significant amount of tobacco production. I live north of Cincinnati in the southwest corner (a few hours from Louisville), and you'll see lots of corn and beans, hogs and cattle around home.

Did your SAE program help you gain a better understanding of how real-world business works?

Of course. The SAE program is designed to help prepare students to be successful in their business ventures later in life. Raising animals taught me business skills related to record-keeping, financial management and investment. Working at the hardware store taught me sales and organization skills, to name a few. But I also learned values that will be invaluable to me in many life situations, like work ethic, time management and responsibility.

How have you grown as a person in your seven years in FFA?

Every day is a new opportunity for a growth experience. It seems like FFA taught me *how* to grow. Learning opportunities surround us all every day—it's just having the right focus to take advantage of them. My life has become so much richer because of the times I've chosen "enlightenment" over "close-mindedness." My FFA experiences are the reason I see things that way.

What advice do you have for students who are new to FFA?

You have amazing opportunities at the tips of your fingers. Explore and enjoy. Know that you have a support base that wants nothing more than for you to be on a road to success for your future. Live it up!



vitals

Hometown: Oxford, Ohio

Age: 20

Chapter: Talawanda/Butler Tech FFA

Advisor: Dan Zimmerman and Jack Jacquemin

SAE: Job placement at Ace Hardware; market steers; market barrows and home improvement

Education: Junior at The Ohio State University

Major: Agricultural Education

Favorite band: Counting Crows (at the moment)

What I'm reading: "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown and "Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren

Favorite food: Mexican

Favorite TV re-runs: "Felicity" and "The West Wing"

Hobby: Music and outdoor activities

Vehicle: Red Pontiac Sunfire

What are three things you've learned so far this year?

I've learned that Michigan Region 1 members don't mess around when it comes to outdoor sports, even West Virginia boys don't like gnats, and you say "wicked" in New Hampshire in every other sentence. Personally, though, I'm reminded every day that life is a better when you approach it with an attitude of gratitude; that there are certain priorities in all of our

lives that have to be defined and nurtured; and that the power of our ability is in our own hands.

Any helpful tips for FFA members involved in public speaking?

Nothing is stronger than speaking from your heart, believing every word and being passionate about what you're saying. The key to delivering a message effectively is talking *with* your audience, not *at* them.

timeline

age	
14	-joined FFA -started SAE program -received Star Greenhead Award -elected chapter Greenhead regent -first sub-district creed speaking CJE
15	-attended first national FFA convention -participated in FFA national invitational Greenhead quiz competition -first place team in state FFA competitive education CJE and won trip to Nashville -didn't advance to finals at state FFA interscholastic speaking CJE
16	-lost FFA chapter officer election -member of third place team in state FFA meets evaluation CJE
17	-elected FFA chapter vice president
18	-graduated from high school -elected FFA state vice president
19	-received American FFA Degree -elected Butler County Fair Queen
20	-elected FFA eastern region vice president

What's the key to self-confidence?

Building self-confidence means knowing your own potential. It's being grounded in your values and priorities. It's listening to people you respect and disregarding things said by people you don't respect. It's being able to depend completely and solely on yourself for the power to accomplish your goals.

Describe your experiences at the state FFA conventions you've attended.

Attention everyone! We are in good hands! From Delaware to Montana, New Hampshire to North Carolina, our future looks so bright. It has been so inspiring for me to go from state to state and see students that will undoubtedly make a positive impact in this world. It makes me so proud to walk alongside them. ●

From a balcony overlooking his hometown, President Carter prepares to address thousands of FFA members on hand to celebrate 75 years of FFA in Georgia. Joining Carter here are 1997-98 National FFA President Hillary Smith and 2003-04 Georgia FFA President Cliff Tippens.



Presidents' Day for FFA

President Jimmy Carter helps Georgia celebrate 75 years of FFA

He served as an FFA chapter officer, a naval officer, governor of Georgia and president of the United States. He accomplished all of that by 1980. Since then, he has authored several books and traveled the world, where he's brokered peace treaties, worked with humanitarian groups to fight hunger and monitored elections in fledgling democracies. In his spare time, he wears a tool belt and helps

Habitat for Humanity volunteers build homes for people who otherwise can't afford them.

At The Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia, his base of operations, the office is constantly swamped with requests from groups seeking to schedule Carter for appearances, speaking engagements and interviews. So, when Carter decided to celebrate Presidents' Day by honoring FFA, he sent a strong message about the positive impact FFA makes among young people.

Carter's direct participation wasn't even a part of the original plans for the celebration. Georgia FFA Advisor James Woodard spoke to officials at the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site about creating a display at the Plains High School museum that would highlight Carter's FFA days. Woodard's contact at the museum later talked to Carter and pitched the idea of his involvement.

Carter enthusiastically accepted. He even offered to host the event in Plains and to personally build an FFA



FFA members joined in a parade through Plains. President Carter served as grand marshal and waved to passing FFA members.

time capsule. With the President on board, plans gelled quickly for a February 13 celebration, scheduled to coincide with Presidents' Day activities at the Carter historic site.

AN ALL-DAY EVENT

Many of the hundreds of Georgia FFA members who arrived for the event started the celebration day at the boyhood home and farm of President Carter, where they were able to stand in the president's footsteps.

Immediately after this excursion, members gathered in downtown Plains for the day's most anticipated event, a parade honoring the FFA and President Carter, who served as grand marshal.

FFA state officers, FFA area officers and a group of Plains FFA alumni led the parade. Hundreds of FFA members, a marching band and Navy J.R.O.T.C. color guard followed.

The time capsule Carter crafted in his woodshop at home was unveiled after the parade. Made of Georgia cherry wood, the handmade box will be preserved in the Plains High School museum until the Georgia FFA celebrates its centennial in 2029, when the contents from more than 200 FFA chapters will be displayed.

AT THE PODIUM

After an opening ceremony by the Georgia FFA state officers, President Carter took the microphone from the balcony of the Plains Inn on Main Street. In front of the estimated 2,300 FFA members and guests on hand, he grinned, telling the crowd that they could add one more FFA member to

the attendance figures, since he was a lifetime FFA alumni member and very proud of it. He also commented on how, as a student at Plains High School, FFA helped propel him to future leadership positions. His first elected office, as it turns out, was as secretary of the Plains High FFA.

"I look among this enormous crowd of bright young people, who are preparing now for a career that is demonstrated very vividly by our motto," Carter said, referring to the FFA motto: "Learning To Do, Doing To Learn, Earning To Live, Living To Serve."

He continued, "This is a great



Before the parade and time capsule ceremony, FFA members had the opportunity to tour President Carter's boyhood home and farm, which he described in his book, "An Hour Before Daylight: Memoirs of a Rural Boyhood."

foundation for you in moral values of learning the practical values of life, and relating what you do in the forest, farm or the shop into other aspects of your professions."

Carter spoke from his heart and gave FFA members plenty to think about. In a single sentence, however, he validated the FFA experiences of past, present and future FFA members: "I thank God," he said, "to have been a member of one of the finest organizations in the world." ●

WEB LINKS

Jimmy Carter National Historic Site Education Program: www.sowega.net/~plainsed/index.htm ■ Jimmy Carter National Historic Site: www.nps.gov/jica/index.htm ■ The Carter Center: www.cartercenter.org ■ Jimmy Carter Library & Museum: www.jimmycarterlibrary.org/ ■ Find Carter facts at C-SPAN's "American Presidents: Life Portraits" website: www.americanpresidents.org/

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FFA Faces

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Chevrolet, sponsor of FFA Faces, will award each FFA member and advisor featured on this page a heavy-duty backpack. Nominate yourself, a friend or your advisor by sending us a note with the following details: name, grade, address, phone number, FFA and academic achievements and extracurricular activities. If nominating someone other than yourself, also include your phone number. All

submissions must include a color photo. Due to the quantity of entries, we can't return or acknowledge submissions.



Minnesota



MELISSA KLEIN

As president of the Lake City FFA her junior and senior years, Melissa led by example. She competed in multiple career development events and proficiency awards through the state level. She participated in FFA chapter fundraisers and volunteered at a camp for children with disabilities. Melissa, who will receive her American FFA Degree this year, studies agricultural sales at Northeast Iowa Community College.

Missouri



RONNIE AUXIER

In addition to being the school mascot, competing in track and football and playing in the school band, Ronnie serves as King City FFA Chapter Reporter and raises rabbits for his SAE program. Known among his peers as a people person, Ronnie works hard to get along with everyone and can frequently be found helping neighbors with their chores. A strong student, he has received awards for his achievements in math and Spanish.

Wisconsin



REBECCA NORBERG

This Prairie Farm FFA Chapter member, a state star in agribusiness finalist last year, has an SAE program in food science and technology (placement) that has really paid off. She's now a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, majoring in hospitality, restaurant and tourism management. Last summer, she worked as a prep cook and fryer cook for a local supper club. Her career goal—to open a restaurant of her own.

Florida



MATTHEW ROSS

This Stewart Middle School FFA Chaplain recently won The Temple Grandin Award, which goes to the top Asperger Syndrome students in the country. Matt, who raises sheep, is the only autistic student to have served as a page in the Florida legislature. After meeting Governor Jeb Bush at a campaign rally, the two became friends and have played golf together. No word on whether this Special Olympics golf champion beat the governor.

Indiana



ANNA DOLAN

As treasurer of the Floyd Central FFA Chapter, Anna, now in her second year in FFA, stays active by volunteering at the state FFA leadership center and at Floyd County's Farm Day. This honor student is a member of the school history bowl and fine arts academic teams. She's also a member of the U.S. Pony Club and plays violin in the school orchestra, The Floyd County Youth Symphony and the Celtic Fire fiddle group.

Arizona



KYLE SHANAHAN

A member of the Mingus Union FFA Chapter for four years, Kyle's supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program includes vegetable and beef production, landscaping and home and community development. Kyle helps out in the community by working at an annual fundraiser that benefits the local historical museum. He is finishing his Eagle Award for Boy Scouts and plans to attend Yavapi Community College this fall.

Washington



MR. MATT DEEBACH

Last year, the Okanogan Conservation District named Mr. Deebach the High School Conservation Teacher of the Year. As agriculture teacher and Tonasket FFA Chapter Advisor for eight years, he works hard to motivate his students, many of whom have competed at state FFA competitions. Mr. Deebach, who puts in extra time and effort, can frequently be heard telling his students, "Get'r Done" and "Never give up."

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By Stephen Regenold

Canine C O M P A N Y

Megan McElfresh finds success with her dog breeding business

I'm not really a country girl," says Megan McElfresh, an FFA member from Sutton, Nebraska, "but I'm not really a city girl either." Megan, 19, lives on a 15-acre plot of land in this small town in the south-central part of the Husker state. Her family raises and breeds quarter horses, and she grew up around

animals, but not on a traditional farm.

While in high school, Megan realized she would need to start saving money for college. Growing up, she worked as a lifeguard in the summer months, but needed a more substantial source of income to pad her bank account.

"I knew tuition was rising, and I knew I'd need some savings for college," she says.

After brainstorming business ideas with her family and doing some subsequent research with local dog kennel owners, Megan decided to start up her own dog

breeding business. That kind of business would be fun, she thought, and her family's home and land would accommodate the raising and housing of puppies. It also had the potential to be fairly lucrative.

MODEST BEGINNINGS

In 1999, she started McElfresh Weimaraners with a female dog, a gift from her great-grandfather. Over the



next three years, the business grew and Megan oversaw the births of dozens of puppies from two females. She eventually incorporated the business into her FFA supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program and, with the encouragement of her FFA advisor, applied for the 2003 FFA Agri-Entrepreneurship Education Award Program.

"In August of 2003, I got a call from the state FFA representative telling me I'd won," she recalls. As one of ten winners of the award, Megan received \$1,000 and went onstage at the 2003 National FFA Convention in Louisville to accept the award.

Winning the award was indeed a surprise to Megan, but she's had strong entrepreneurial influences in her life, which have undoubtedly affected her. Megan's father, for example, is an independent insurance agent. Her mother, an elementary school teacher, has instilled the importance of hard work and education. And one of her friends in high school was among the winners of the Agri-Entrepreneurship Education Award last year.

ADVISOR'S HELP

Tom Hofmann, Megan's FFA advisor, has wielded a strong influence, she says. "He really pushed me to keep up on the record-keeping and other business facets of McElfresh Weimaraners," she says. Mr. Hofmann helped her expand and turn the dog breeding into a real money-earning business. He also helped Megan with practical things like making business

Megan's dog breeding business has helped pay for her first year of college, a new car and an FFA trip to Europe.



cards and teaching her how to use record-keeping computer software programs.

Recognizing the value of her business and its uniqueness, Mr. Hofmann pushed Megan to apply for the Agri-Entrepreneurship award. He gave her the forms to fill out and encouraged her to write the six-page essay on the business that eventually helped her win the prize.

THE DOGS

The Weimaraner breed of dog that Megan raises comes from a line of German dogs originally used for hunting big game in the Middle Ages. They're fairly uncommon in the United States, compared to other hunting dogs like labs and golden retrievers. But Weimaraners are gaining popularity. The breed's unique coat, striking eyes and strong, fast body make them popular with hunters and active, outdoor-loving owners. They are highly intelligent and are known as great family dogs.

These traits helped Megan distinguish her dog-breeding business from pet stores and other breeders. She committed herself fully to the puppies, sometimes bottle-feeding newborns three times a day. She let neighborhood kids come over to play and take care of the puppies, thus letting the dogs get used to humans right from the start. She provided her dogs the best food and made sure they get all shots and necessary medical checkups.

To get the word out, Megan at first relied on advertising in the local newspaper. She took the dogs to baseball games to show people the

breed and invited anyone interested over to meet the puppies. Soon, word-of-mouth took over and people were calling her about the dogs. Today, McElfresh Weimaraners is doing so well that there is a waiting list for people wanting to buy future puppies.

A BALANCING ACT

"On top of school, basketball practice and other activities, the dogs were a full-time job," Megan says, referring to her high school days. Now studying agricultural education



Megan says that when her puppies are three days old, she assists a veterinarian, who cuts the claws and docks the tails.

at the University of Nebraska, Megan recently finished a year as FFA state secretary. She spent this summer working as an intern for Congressman Tom Osborne, the legendary University of Nebraska football coach who is now a congressman from Nebraska's third district. After college, Megan wants to serve in the Peace Corps.

In the meantime, her brother Matt (also an FFA member) will keep McElfresh Weimaraners up and running. Megan will stay involved in the business when she can.

"For my whole life," she says, "I want to always have Weimaraners around." ●

WEB LINKS

FFA Agri-Entrepreneurship Education Award Program: www.ffa.org/programs/ag_ent/ ■ American Kennel Club (information on Weimaraners and other breeds): www.akc.org/breeds/recreeds/weim.cfm

Rethinking the *Speedway*

FFA members dream up new landscaping ideas for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, then get a behind-the-scenes look at turf and grounds management careers

Even though they live in Indianapolis, prior to this year, Cindy Lynn and Heather Catlett had never attended The Indy 500, the granddaddy of auto racing and the event for which their city is best known.

Then, this spring, they and their classmates had the opportunity to enter an essay contest, in which they were asked how they would spruce up the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS) if they had the opportunity to become head groundskeeper.

Cindy and Heather are both FFA members at the STAR Academy (a magnet program at Emmerich Manual High School). Now in its tenth year, STAR (that's short for Science and Technology of Agriculture and its

Resources) prepares inner-city students like Cindy and Heather for agricultural studies in college and careers in agriculture.

Using the knowledge learned in the classroom and through FFA activities, Cindy and Lynn, along with other STAR students, wrote their one-page essays, turned them in and hoped for the best.

THE PRIZE: EXPERIENCE

For essay finalists and winners, the prizes wouldn't be cash or objects. Instead, twenty essay finalists would be invited to the Speedway for an educational career day, involving a session about careers in turf and grounds management; lawn equipment safety tips; a tour of the Speedway's 750-acre

grounds; and lunch in The Toro Company's suite in the garage area, known among Indy fans as "Gasoline Alley."

The top two essay writers from this group also would each receive four tickets to the Indy 500 and be invited to help in Race Day preparations of the grounds. From the 20 essay finalists, Toro chose Cindy and Heather. They received the most votes by a panel of six judges, who based their scoring criteria on creativity, an applied understanding of landscape principles and plan feasibility.

"In an imaginary world," Cindy wrote in her essay, "I get a chance to design the new landscapes at the famous Indianapolis 500 Motor Speedway." She proposes several new



FFA members from Indianapolis' STAR Academy get a behind-the-scenes look at what it's like to be on the landscaping crew at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Students also learned a few things about equipment safety.



As the official provider of landscaping equipment at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, The Toro Company sponsored an essay contest for FFA members and contributed \$1,000 to the STAR Academy FFA Chapter.

ideas for the IMS, including a flowerbed in the shape of the IMS logo and common boxwood hedges in the shape of racing helmets: "I wanted that idea," she writes, "because the logo is known around the world and it should be used more."

"I thought the helmets would be easy to make out of the hedges, and it represents racing. I know that race fans like to see new and creative ideas. I think the hedges and flower beds would be easy to take care of once they are planted and in good shape." Her flowers of choice for the project—yellow rudbeckias, white petunias and red impatiens.

PLENTY OF PEONIES

Heather's plan offers some different twists. "If I were hired to become the new grounds chief for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway," she wrote, "I would construct an atmosphere that would represent Indiana at its finest and make everyone, whether a native Hoosier or a tourist, be proud to be a part of this world-known event." The plans call for the planting of "greener, fresher looking turf" and "white and black colored peonies, the state flower, to assemble a giant checkered flag." She also wrote, "I would have some shrubs sculpted into massive racecars and . . . have flowers planted in the shape of our state flag and the American flag."

She also suggested creating logos to represent all the city's professional sports teams. "All would be in the appropriate colors and, of course, also be peonies."

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

For Cindy, who just completed her senior year at STAR Academy, winning the essay contest validated her FFA and STAR involvement. In addition to helping her establish a solid educational foundation, FFA and STAR also gave Cindy a new outlook on life at a time when she desperately needed it. A difficult chapter in her life began in sixth grade when her older brother died in a car accident. Following his death, Cindy says she began to hang out with the wrong crowd. Cindy's teachers strongly encouraged her to join FFA and enroll in STAR Academy. She did, and this fall, she is heading to Purdue University, where she will major in agricultural education.

Heather, like Cindy, just completed her senior year. After learning about STAR Academy and FFA in eighth grade, she knew it was the right place for her because she knew the experience would help prepare her for veterinary school and it would open the door to valuable leadership opportunities.

Winning the essay contest gave her a big confidence boost as she, too, heads to Purdue this fall, the next step in her dream to becoming a veterinarian.

"The IMS and Toro-sponsored event is a wonderful opportunity for our students at STAR," says Sonya Lord, the STAR Academy's director.

"It is the perfect combination of educational information with the excitement of the Indy 500, an event that means so much to our community in Indianapolis." ●



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Wildlife Management

A career guide for FFA members

By Stephen Regenold

If a person can be destined for a career, Tim Woodward was most certainly destined to become a wildlife manager. First, he loves the outdoors and has for his whole life. He grew up hunting, fishing and spending as much time as possible outdoors. Both his father and grandfather held wildlife management positions, and he rode around with his father on the job as a kid to become intimately familiar with the daily routines of a wildlife manager.

Today, Woodward, age 31, is a district wildlife manager based in Denver. His duties include everything from law enforcement to education to fish species research. He works in some of the state's most beautiful wilderness areas and says no two days are ever alike.

"Some days I really stop and think that I cannot believe I'm getting paid to do what I do," he says. Woodward admits that he could never see himself working in a place where he'd have to sit behind a desk and wear a tie. He loves the freedom of his job and the variety it presents day to day. And he loves the fact that most of his time is spent outside under the sun and in the woods.

According to the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR), wildlife management as a career can be summed up as a job that helps wildlife species serve whatever ecological, commercial, recreational or scientific purposes state law or public interest determines. Under this broad definition there are several career options, ranging from general wildlife managers, like Woodward, to research scientists to game wardens, who patrol the woods and enforce



hunting and fishing regulations.

Colorado's DNR breaks the career areas into three categories:

1. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND BIOLOGY:

This is the category Woodward falls in. The general wildlife manager position has a law enforcement component to the job, much like that of a game warden, but they also work with researchers to recommend hunting and fishing quotas. Education and public relations work are also components of this job.

2. WILDLIFE RESEARCH:

These are full-time research scientists who work on various wildlife-related

issues. Topics of research revolve around wildlife species and the land they live on. These scientists may study and write reports on anything from erosion to snail genetics to trends in duck populations.

3. PUBLIC RELATIONS:

This specialist position deals with communicating to the public and the news media on topics related to wildlife. Necessary skills may include writing, public speaking, graphic design, photography, marketing and other communications know-how.

Most people in wildlife management get a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife biology or general biology in college, Woodward says. People who want to specialize in wildlife research usually continue to graduate school to get a master's degree in biology.

Woodward says he generally works about 50 hours a week. On season openers and during other busy times, however, he says the days can be much longer. For example, he once had to pull an all-nighter, working about 30 hours straight during a tremendously busy time of the year.

Pay varies from state to state and with position, but Woodward says a rough scale would see recent graduates starting at around \$30,000 per year; more experienced wildlife managers will make as much as \$55,000 or more per year.

But Woodward emphasizes there is more to it than the pay. "You're not going to get rich with this job, but the enjoyment you'll get being outside and doing what you love far outweighs that," he says. ●

WEB LINKS

National FFA Organization: www.ffa.org ■ Colorado Division of Wildlife: wildlife.state.co.us/about/careers.asp ■ The Wildlife Society: www.wildlife.org

The **IMPACT**

THE INDIANA FFA ☆ JULY/AUGUST 2004

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FFA and 4-H**

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2004-2005 State
Officer Team**

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August

Calendar of Events

5-7 Summer Challenge, Indiana FFA Leadership Center

8-9 State FFA Executive Committee Training and Meeting

15 State Sales and Food Science CDEs,
Heritage High School

2 District 7 & 8 State Fair Work Day

3 District 9 & 10 State Fair Work Day

4 District 11 & 12 State Fair Work Day
State Dairy Goat CDE, Indiana State Fair

5 District 1 & 2 State Fair Work Day

6 District 3 & 4 Work Day
State Horticulture CDE

9 District 5 Work Day

10 District 6 Work Day

11-22 State Fair FFA Exhibit District Work Experience

14 State Small Engines CDE

21 FFA Day at State Fair

22 State Fair Cleanup and Projects released after 6:00 p.m.

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Sara Egan Reporter
Joey Dunn Sentinel



Got Milk? Whitko Does!!

By Mikki Marshall

Everyone has seen or heard the famous words "Got Milk?" multiple times, but the Whitko FFA Chapter lives that phrase! This District II chapter has some innovative ideas when it comes to fundraising for their chapter activities.

With around 90 members in their chapter and very high levels of participation Career Development Events, the chapter was in search of a low maintenance, high profit fundraiser. However, they did not go looking for this fundraiser, it came looking for them.

A local dairy producer with a proposal for their chapter contacted Mr. Roger Carr, Whitko's advisor. He proposed that three local dairy producers fund a milk machine for Whitko's high school cafeteria with all profits going to the FFA chapter. The FFA chapter, however, would be responsible for the daily upkeep of the machine.

The chapter eagerly agreed to the plan and a milk machine was installed. Annually, the milk machine will raise anywhere from \$2,000-\$2,500 for the FFA chapter. The profits go into the FFA assistance program, which helps to cover costs for a variety of activities. These funds will help students prepare for CDEs, attend Washington Leadership Conference, and even travel to Brazil with the FFA exchange trip.

"This year we had six teams and 20 different students participating in national CDEs," said Mr. Carr. "Five of those teams were in the top seven in the nation."

While CDEs are a major part of the Whitko FFA Chapter, they are not the only activity in which members participate. This fall, the inaugural SOAR @ Whitko was held at Whitko High School. Instead of taking middle school students to the Leadership Center for this conference, the Indiana state officers brought the conference to Whitko.

"Middle school students wanted to be involved in normal FFA activities but the resources were not abundantly available to them," said Matt Metzger, a senior at Whitko. "So we decided to bring the resources to them."

Around 50 middle school members from Whitko, Adams Central, and South Adams attended this all day conference. Each student had the opportunity to participate and learn about a variety of activities from teamwork to appropriate official dress.

SOAR @ Whitko and the milk machine are just two activities that make the Whitko FFA an innovative and unique chapter. It is programs like Whitko that help make the Indiana FFA such a prestigious organization!



Don't "Got Milk?" Follow these steps!

- ✓ Check with school administration and nutritionist
- ✓ Contact local dairy producers with funding proposal
- ✓ Get in touch with Milk Promotions Services about purchasing a milk machine
- ✓ Develop a daily work schedule
- ✓ Sit back and enjoy the rewards of your new fundraiser!

Young Advisor Inspires Many Students

By Micah Haltom

When students from the Boonville FFA Chapter are asked why they think their advisor should be the next Big Owl, their answers included words like "friend," "role model," "mentor," and "great teacher." Mr. Chad Sickbert is the advisor of the Boonville FFA Chapter with a membership of about 50 members, located in the southern part of District X. When searching for the next Big Owl, Boonville FFA members were quick to nominate Mr. Sickbert.

"Mr. Sickbert has helped me to develop my leadership skills along with the ability to work with others," says Kayla Leslie, a junior at Boonville High School.

Mr. Sickbert assists his students in participating in several "traditional" activities such as attending leadership conferences, conventions, caring for the farm plot, filling out proficiencies, and participating in CDEs. One of their "nontraditional" activities is a new opportunity available to FFA chapters - manage a milk machine in their school as a fundraiser.

Mr. Sickbert's first teaching position proved extra challenging because he had to spend his first three years as a teacher in a position divided between two different schools. He would teach at one school in the morning and at another in the afternoon. It was difficult for him to be able to keep in communication with his FFA members, community, and staff to coordinate activities. He has since left that position and now teaches full time at Boonville High School, where he has been for the past two years.

"It's been great being able to be so productive and being in touch with the FFA Chapter and its members," says Mr. Sickbert.

As high school student, Mr. Sickbert had no desire to take an agriculture class or to be a member of the FFA, but he did show an interest in attending Purdue to major in Pre-Veterinary Medicine. His guidance counselor suggested that he take an ag class and join



the FFA to help him build his resume and transcript to help him get into Purdue's pre-vet school. He took his counselor's advice and soon found a love for agriculture and the FFA, which caused him to change his major to agriculture education.

Mr. Sickbert says that he enjoys the fact that in the FFA students can become such an important part of his life. Students from his chapter feel the same way. He feels that spending time with students during CDE practices, taking road trips, and attending conventions allows him to really learn what is going on in students' lives.

"Mr. Sickbert has always been there for me when I needed him," says Emily Robinson, a sophomore at Boonville. "Not only has he been a great teacher and role model, but he has been one of the best friends I ever made in high school."





"I enjoy showing my cattle. It takes most of the summer to get them ready, so I enjoy seeing the end result."

Emily Griffiths
Freshman, Central Noble High School



"I do a lot of things in the summer. I like showing pigs at the county fair after getting up to early to wash them. I also like going to state convention and hanging out with friends."

Amanda Cummings
Senior, Seymour High School

Student Spotlight!

What is your favorite summer time activity?



"I enjoy riding and showing my horses during the summer."

Whitney Small
Junior, Warsaw High School



"My favorite summertime activity is going back to my uncle's woods and just hanging out by his creek."

Daniel Blocher
Freshman, Manchester

NEXT ISSUE'S SPOTLIGHT QUESTION:

What was your favorite part of the 75th State Convention?

E-mail your answer to inffaspotlight@yahoo.com

IDEM Believes in the Future of the FFA

By Michael McDaniel

No matter how great or small the graciousness of the partner, the Indiana FFA values every partnership. Each partner provides a resource to ensure that FFA members develop their potential for career leadership, personal growth, and career success. The Indiana FFA Organization is proud to announce our newest sponsor, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. In the article below, Dave Russell, the agriculture liaison for IDEM, shares why he and his organization have made the choice to partner with and support the Indiana FFA.



Full name of company: Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Location of headquarters: Indianapolis, IN

Number of employees: Approximately 900

Years in business: 18 years

History of Company: The Indiana General Assembly passed a law to create a new state agency dedicated to environmental protection in 1985. On April 1, 1986, Governor Robert Orr signed an executive order establishing the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Length of Partnership: This is a new partnership. For several years, the agency wanted to develop a recognition program but just had not found the right fit until we learned about the Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management Proficiency Award. As a past member of the FFA (yes, I still have my jacket) and being involved with the Indiana FFA Foundation Board for a number of years makes this sponsorship even more special.

If a student was interested in a career with IDEM, what advice would you give them that would help them prepare for that career? No matter what your major is, there is a place for you at IDEM. If your interests are in accounting, information technology or media relations, IDEM has a job for you.

How would you describe your relationship with the Indiana FFA to a peer organization? IDEM is excited about this new relationship with the Indiana FFA, the premier youth organization in the state. Rewarding these outstanding FFA members with a Proficiency Award and having the opportunity to talk with young people about the agency and the role IDEM plays in protecting the state's environment is invaluable.

"IDEM is a great fit to be the sponsor of the Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management Proficiency. Since both Indiana FFA and IDEM are committed to protecting Indiana farmland and the environment, we can make an even bigger impact working together."

Ms. Abby Dougherty
Indiana FFA Program Specialist

FFA... providing for a positive future

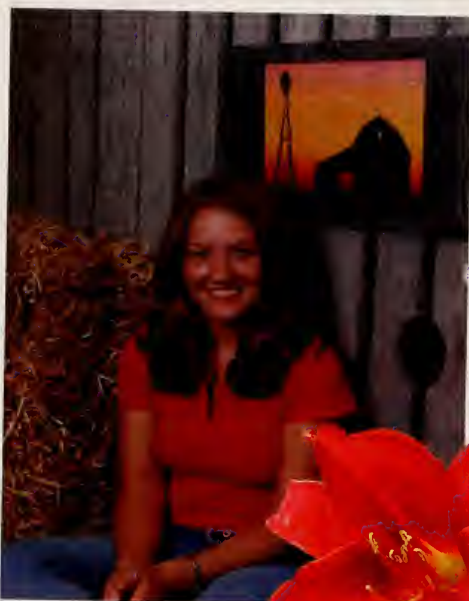
By Amber Ebbert

Dedicated, funny and a good role model are just a few words people use to describe Britney Tompkins, a 18-year-old senior at Eastern Hancock High School. Growing up, Britney actively participated in her family's farm by raising and showing pigs and cattle. She is an active member of both 4-H and FFA, and her involvement in these organizations, combined with her farming background, has prompted her to choose to continue a future in agriculture after high school.

"There are many lessons I have learned because I was raised on the farm," says Britney. "Hard work has to come before play and success. Be dedicated in all that you do. Take responsibility for your actions. Procrastination gets you into trouble."

These lessons have helped Brittany in the FFA by pushing her to work hard in all the activities she participates in from planning a Donkey Basketball Tournament to competing in the State Livestock Evaluation CDE. Outside of the FFA, Britney has been active in student council, National Honor Society, 4-H, and she serves as vice president of her class. She has learned that that staying committed to something definitely pays off in the long run.

"Setting goals over the past few years has helped me focus on areas of my life and different activities," says Britney. "After the first time I set a goal for myself and achieved it, I realized how good I felt about myself and started setting higher goals such as



winning senior showmanship at the county fair or making it into the top five at the State Livestock CDE this year."

Britney views her involvement in the FFA as a stepping-stone to her future. After Britney graduates this spring she will attend Joliet Junior College on a Livestock Judging Scholarship and then transfer to a university such as Iowa State University or Kansas State to major in animal science with an emphasis in either nutrition or genetics.

"Growing up I was shy, so by taking on leadership roles such as Chapter President or District Sentinel I had to step out of my comfort zone," says Britney. "I also have set a positive example because many members watch and look up to me."

Meet the 2004-



Matthew Metzger
PRESIDENT

Parents: David and Beth Metzger
Hometown: South Whitely, IN
FFA Chapter: Whitko
Advisor: Roger Car
SAE: Dairy Placement
Future Plans: Major in Christian Ministries at Bethel College



Jill Steiner
SECRETARY

Parents: Kent and Shirley Steiner
Hometown: Berne, IN
FFA Chapter: Adams Central
Advisor: Mike Jones
SAE: Agriculture Communications
Future Plans: Major in Agricultural Communications at Purdue University.



Eric Barnard
NRVP

Parents: Mike and Lori Barnard
Hometown: Flora, IN
FFA Chapter: Carroll
Advisor: Steve Keown
SAE: Diversified Crop Production
Future Plans: Major in Mechanical Engineering at Purdue University

2005 State Officers!



Todd Ault
SRVP

Parents: Barbara Ault and Michael Ault
Hometown: Versailles, IN
FFA Chapter: South Ripley
Advisor: Patrick Holland
SAE: Beef Production
Future Plans: Attend Purdue University or Vincennes University and major in Construction Technology or Ag Education



Jennifer Shepherd
TREASURER

Parents: Martin and Rhonda Shepherd
Hometown: Ft. Wayne, IN
FFA Chapter: Carroll @ Fort Wayne
Advisor: Cindy Raker
SAE: Forage Production
Future Plans: Major in Business and Law at Indiana University



Sara Egan
REPORTER

Parents: Brian and Judith Egan
Hometown: Rensselaer, IN
FFA Chapter: Rensselaer
Advisors: Faith Okos and Ron Wamsley
SAE: Agricultural Sales
Future Plans: Major in Agricultural Education and Sales and Marketing at Purdue University



Joey Dunn
SENTINEL

Parents: Bill and Annette Dunn
Hometown: Franklin, IN
FFA Chapter: Franklin Community
Advisors: Craig Rebich and Natalie Schilling
SAE: Livestock and Crop Production
Future Plans: Major in Agronomy or Agricultural Education at Purdue University

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In memoriam...

By Tim Green

There are many people in the world that touch the lives of others. In celebration of the lives of FFA members, advisors and supporters, we dedicate this article to honor all those who have touched the lives and hearts of the Indiana FFA.

Mr. Rick Hutchinson, agriculture education instructor at Argos High School and Huntington North High School, saw many students pass through his door during his many years of teaching. He was the prime example of how advisors live out the FFA motto.

Learning to Do...

Mr. Hutchinson was up for a challenge. No matter what career development event his students wanted to compete in, he was there to guide them in the right direction. If he wasn't up to date in the CDE area, he would continue his education. He was a lifelong learner.

Doing to Learn...

You couldn't be in an agriculture class of Mr. Hutchinson's without getting dirty. Hands-on working experiences were keys to developing students. One of his favorite things to do was competing in the Exhibit Leadership CDE. From the Super-Duper FFA member mannequin named "Skippy" to pyramids, Mr. Hutchinson's encouragement helped FFA members spread the information about the FFA.

Earning to Live...

Hard working all the time, Mr. Hutchinson spent countless hours working with his students and preparing lessons so that those students could fully understand the benefits from agriculture and the FFA.

Living to Serve...

Mr. Hutchinson was active on all levels to promote and ensure the success of agriculture education and the FFA by being very active as an officer of the Indiana Association of Agricultural Educators (IAAE). He also helped develop programs and events for the state fair and spent many hours helping his chapter with community service projects.

Daniel Burbrink, 17, Junior at Columbus East High School, was a very dedicated 4-H and FFA member. This past February, members of the Columbus East FFA celebrated the life of one of their classmates. Daniel Burbrink was a living model of the FFA mission statement – premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.

Premier Leadership – Dan was always the one to work on chapter projects. He always loved the FFA dances his chapter put on. "It was a big deal to him," said Miss Charity Nolting, his advisor. "He was also a big advocate of Drive-Your-Tractor-To-School-Day." No matter what Dan participated in, he was there to help when needed. Dan was type of person that would work behind the scenes and let the others take credit for the work.

Personal Growth – When asked about Dan, his friend Sara Newkirk tears up. "When I first met Dan, I took him as a goofy kid who loved to farm. He was elected to chapter reporter and I saw him grow into a man through his ongoing responsibilities through the FFA," she said. "You could always go to him when you needed something."

Career Success – After he was to graduate, Dan wanted to continue working on the family farm with his father. His love for agriculture was undeniable. "Dan would always wear his FFA and farming shirts," Sara said. "He was the 'official' spokesman for everything ag. He was not shy at all and would answer all the questions about farming."

The Indiana FFA would like to honor Mr. Rick Hutchinson and Daniel Burbrink for their love of the agricultural industry and their commitments to the Indiana FFA. We appreciate all that you have done and hope that you continue to watch over the Indiana FFA.



Premier Leadership for Premier Leaders

By Shane Hageman

Premier Leadership Training, held September 11-12, 2004, is not just another conference offered at the Indiana FFA Leadership Center. It is a conference designed specifically for district officers, section directors, and chorus officers to develop skills that will be beneficial, and most likely necessary, to lead throughout the year.

"PLT is a great time to meet other officers from around the state in a fun and exciting atmosphere," says Nathan Lehman, a junior at Adams Central High School. "PLT allows individuals to gain the leadership skills to become powerful leaders in our organization."

PLT, facilitated by Indiana's national officer candidate and presented by a host of former FFA members, provides an atmosphere for attendees to form closer relationships with their fellow officers as well as leaders from across the state. Attendees spend time learning how to plan for and implement activities in the incoming year. Personal skills such as organization, communication, and prioritizing will be learned. Officer teams will learn to work together, especially how to perform any duties specific to each office.

When added all up with a weekend away from home and almost 100 FFA leaders from across the state joining at the Indiana FFA Leadership Center in Trafalgar, PLT 2004 will be an experience no one should miss!



GETTING A LITTLE DIRTY NEVER HURT ANYONE

By Micah Haltem

Who wants to play around in the dirt? Who enjoys getting muddy to learn a thing or two? Who doesn't mind standing in the cold rain for hours at a time? And who loves to spend the afternoon climbing in and out of soil pits? Soil evaluators from across the state and nation – that's who!

Soils evaluation is a career development event held in the fall where students must evaluate soils to determine texture, color, slope of land, parent material, and erosion. Students also must evaluate a home site where they determine how suitable the land is to construct a home. To do this, they must define many characteristics of the soil.

"Soil Judging is fun because you get to see many different places and spend time learning new things with friends," says Daniel Stauffer, a junior at Southern Wells High School.

The soils evaluation contest is held every year during the fall. Soils evaluation locations vary. Local, area, and state contests are held in different areas of the state each year, and may be held as early as August or as late as October. The national Soils Evaluation CDE will be held in Oklahoma in May 2005.

Students can prepare by practicing with soil pits. They may also study information about soils and the rules that make up the contest. It also may be helpful to study the different types of soils in the area of your contest. A local Department of Natural Resources employee, a county extension educator, a former judger, or a local agronomist may all be a good source of information and assistance in preparing for a contest.

What do students learn from soils evaluation? It can still be fun to play in the dirt!

"Soils is more than just dirt," says Andrew Pursifull a senior from the Southern Wells FFA. "Some of my best memories of the FFA are of the bus rides home. It's a great way to spend time with friends and learn too!"

TOP 5 CAREERS related to Soils Evaluation

Plant & Soils Sciences
Agronomist
Land Surveyor
Geographer
Farmer





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INDIANA FFA

Happy Birthday FFA and 4-H

By Jessica Geisler and Shane Hageman

This year the Indiana FFA and the Indiana 4-H organizations are both celebrating very important birthdays at the Indiana State Fair, which will run from August 11-22, 2004. With 75 years of the FFA and 100 years of 4-H, youth agriculture programs in Indiana have witnessed tremendous growth and change throughout the past century.

In 1851 the General Assembly passed an act to encourage agriculture, which led to the formation of the Board of Agriculture. The first goal was to create a place for Indiana residents to gather and learn about agriculture. The state fair became a landmark in Indiana agriculture, and even though it has undergone many changes over the past 145 years, its purpose remains the same.

Highlights from last year

State fair preparation begins every year in early July. Last year, the state officers worked hard to make the FFA Pavilion shine. FFA members from across the state pitched in to help during the fair, helping out with the small animal petting zoo, the putt-putt golf course, llama exhibits, and so much more. In the center of the Pavilion, visitors followed the path of a train that traveled along the tracks showing the stops along the way from the farm to the dinner plate. There were also many areas for kids to have fun inside, such as the construction area and the kiddie corral. On FFA Day, the 4th Annual Putt-Putt Golf Tournament was quite a success.



75 years of FFA and 100 years of 4-H

In 1999, the Indiana FFA dedicated a building – the Indiana FFA Pavilion – with the hope that they could capture the spirit of youth in agriculture. Major attractions of the FFA exhibit at the state fair include the Young McDonald's Farm and the Value-Added Country Market, where everything from FFA memorabilia to homemade Indiana jams and candies are for sale to fair-goers.

This year, to celebrate the success of Indiana youth involved in agriculture through another youth organization in Indiana, the Indiana State Fair will be unveiling a \$7 million birthday gift to 4-H. They have currently renovated the 4-H education complex so that they can adapt to the growing demand of the 4-H youth. The building will now be able to house all of the state fair-qualifying projects, along with areas for demonstrations and share-the-fun activities.

To celebrate the success of both of these organizations at the state fair, the Pioneer Village has dedicated the Farmer's Day Parade as a birthday party for both FFA and 4-H. Members of both organizations are invited to enter floats in the parade, where prizes are awarded, ranging from \$1000 for 1st place to \$100 for 5th. The parade will be held on August 18, 2004, with the parade stepping off at 10:00 a.m.

The FFA Pavilion

Each year, FFA members work hard to make the FFA Pavilion a public showcase for FFA activities. During the Fair, the two-and-a-half acre pavilion is full of people playing putt-putt golf, learning about agriculture, and buying old-fashioned candy at the Country Market. The Pavilion attracts thousands of people traveling through the state fair everyday and provides a perfect atmosphere for the FFA to share its story and agriculture's story with people unfamiliar with them.

A young animal petting zoo is a large attraction for small children and people who have not been exposed to farm animals. Topics such as agricultural science, agricultural mechanics, and horticulture are displayed in large hands on areas throughout the entire Pavilion. In addition, the Indiana FFA will celebrate their 75th Anniversary at the State Fair this year. Displays on the history of Indiana FFA and other great events will showcase events that are part of the 75th celebration.

The Indiana FFA Country Market

The FFA Country Market, sponsored by the Indiana FFA Foundation and the Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture, allows shoppers to step back in time to buy merchandise not offered in the everyday supermarket. Items such as rock candy, beef jerky, salsa, country jam, and wooden rocking chairs are available. The purpose of the country market is to showcase products and merchandise made in Indiana.

How you can help

FFA members can be actively involved in the Indiana FFA Pavilion and State Fair activities. Workdays are held for each district during set-up and during the Fair. During workdays, FFA members actually have a hand in constructing the pavilion. During the Fair, members are welcome interact with people visiting the petting zoo, or take part in monitoring the pavilion and running activities provided for the public.

To learn more about the FFA activities at the Indiana State Fair, check out the Indiana FFA Web site at www.indianaffa.org.

Calendar for August at the State Fair

2	District VII and VIII State Fair Work Day	9	District V Work Day
3	District IX and X State Fair Work Day	10	District VI Work Day
4	District XI and XII State Fair Work Day	11-22	State Fair FFA Exhibit District Work Experience, District VII August 11, District VII August 12, District IX August 13, District X August 14, District XI August 15, District XII August 16, District I August 17, District II August 18, District III August 19, District IV August 20, District V August 21, District VI August 22
5	District I and II State Fair Work Day	21	FFA Day at State Fair
6	District III and IV Work Day	22	State Fair Cleanup and Projects released after 6:00 p.m.



STRAIN YOUR BRAIN

This issues Strain Your Brain is a cryptogram. Try your best to find the coded secret message in the text. Use your brain to try and figure out what each letter represents. Good Luck!

Hint: It's all in the statement!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
26																	5								

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R **A**

7 8 5 13 10 11 26 25 17 5 10 6 22 16 15 26 5 8 8 5

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According to Brian Davis, an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor from North Carolina, hard work doesn't seem all that hard when you're doing what you love doing.



By Chris Hayhurst

Work. Simply put, it's the place we go in the morning and remain all day long. It's a place we avoid, if we can, on weekends and holidays. It's where we earn our keep. It's what we "do."

Brian Davis, age 28, is an agriculture teacher. That's his job. Day in and day out, teaching—whether it's animal science, equine science, landscaping or horticulture—is how Davis makes a living.

But there's much more to it than that. He's also an FFA advisor, running the show at the 128-member Weddington FFA Chapter in Matthews, North Carolina. He's vice president of the North Carolina Agriculture Teacher's Association. He's a husband. And one last thing: Davis is the 2003 North Carolina Worker of the Year, one of just 50 people from across the United States to be honored in the 12th annual American Worker of the Year Awards.

ONE OF THE BEST

Nominated for the award by his wife, Melissa, Davis beat out thousands of other state entrants to take home \$250, a gift certificate and the honor

All in a day's work

Brian Davis, a 28-year-old agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, is named one of the nation's hardest workers

of being recognized as one of the nation's hardest workers. "Each year, a few people stand out," says Kasie Bell, a spokesperson for the award's sponsor, Dickies Workwear. "Brian was definitely one of them."

So by now you're probably wondering—what exactly does it take to be named worker of the year? Long hours? Sacrifice? An unflinching devotion to one's career? Well, here's Davis: "You have to love what you do," he says, adding, "You have to believe in what you're doing."

Years ago, as a freshman at nearby Sun Valley High School, Davis was low on self-confidence and lacked leadership skills.

"I was extremely shy," he recalls,

"but my FFA advisor was great." Encouraged by his advisor and by his father, who also is a teacher, Davis took a junior officer position that first year, and later went on to become chapter president and, as a senior, regional vice president. He learned how to speak in public, plan and organize. He learned everything it took to be an effective leader. But, most importantly, he learned the philosophy that now drives him: "If you want something in life," he says, "you have to earn it."

Today, five years after receiving a degree in agricultural education from North Carolina State, Davis is alone at the helm of an FFA program that's growing by the day. The job consumes him, but in a way that only a great job could. "Brian is not only a hard worker," says Weddington High School principal Joe Delaney, "but he knows and likes his subjects and his students. He's at every activity that they do."

ALL YEAR LONG

This summer, as many school teachers take their well-deserved two-month break, Davis—like most agriculture teachers—will be at it harder than ever. There's the state convention, FFA camp, a weeklong leadership camp and a teacher's conference. All in all, a busy "summer break." Brian's take? "I'll try to take a week off. My wife's going to kill me."

When it comes to his success, Brian is quick to give credit to those around him, especially his students. Recalling many long Sunday nights spent teaching parliamentary procedure, Brian proudly describes the scene: "No pizza. Nothing. We'd just get right to work. The kids did it because they wanted to be there." ●



FFA members grab brooms, paintbrushes and hammers as part of their FFA Week activities.

Community Development

The Zoo crew

FFA members from a dozen FFA chapters team up to improve a zoo

In their planning for this year's FFA Week festivities, officers from Kansas' south central FFA district wanted to find a way to engage FFA members from across the district in a single community development project. Their goals—to make a positive impact in the community, to build FFA awareness and to have fun.



FFA members tackled small jobs, such as painting, throughout the zoo's 247 acres. Their efforts made the zoo a better place for visitors and animals alike.

But first they had to find a project that could fully utilize dozens of students from FFA chapters across the district. The city of Wichita seemed like a logical location. Not only is it the largest city in the district, but it also offered a central location.

Wichita also worked, the officers reasoned, because none of its several high schools had agricultural education programs or FFA chapters. The strategy here—to build an awareness of FFA and agricultural education in a place that probably doesn't know much about either.

OFF TO THE ZOO

To find a project in Wichita, the officers contacted a local United Way office, which helped the officers set up a program at Sedgwick County Zoo, one of the top outdoor family attraction in the state. During the current economic climate, zoos, like many other nonprofit organizations, have seen large decreases in public

funding. As a result, there turned out to be no shortage of projects on the zoo's "to-do" list.

On the day of the event, more than 150 students from 12 FFA chapters arrived at the zoo to pitch in. With each member logging four to five hours at the zoo, they joined forces in a colossal effort.

Spreading out over the 247-acre zoo, they painted, swept the streets, tore down old signs, worked in the flowerbeds and built forms for concrete pourings. Their work made the zoo a better place for future visitors and the 2,500 animals that reside on the grounds.

LOOKING AHEAD

Cory Epler, FFA advisor at Arkansas City High School, helped organize the effort. "It was amazing," he says, "to see how much these students accomplished in a short amount of time."

He says the project's success generated momentum, which he hopes will carry through to next year's FFA Week. "I would hope," he says, "that next year there will be more students involved." ●

FFA Week & Community Development

A nationwide event that takes place for a week each February, National FFA Week acknowledges the organization's commitment to agricultural education, leadership, service and student success, while also recognizing its business, educational and civic partners from local, state and national communities. Find details and ideas for activities at:

The National FFA Organization:
www.ffa.org/programs/ffaweek/
United Way: national.united-way.org/myuw/

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/teachers/community_service_projects.htm
Toyota: www.toyota.com/about/community/education/index.html



This FFA community development story is brought to you by **GET THE FEELING. TOYOTA.**

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GET THE FEELING



WHAT'S HOT

Here are the results of our latest FFA poll.

TOP 5 CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

livestock judging
public speaking
soil judging
parliamentary procedure
agronomy

TOP 5 FFA CHAPTER COMMUNITY PROJECTS

trash pick-up
petting zoo
hospital volunteering
nursing home visits
planting trees and flowers

TOP 5 FUNDRAISERS

fruit and meat sales
flower and plant sales
chili supper
legislative breakfast
donkey basketball

TOP 5 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAMS

new york yankees
atlanta braves
cleveland indians
boston red sox
cincinnati reds

TOP 5 CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE/FOOD/FIBER/ NATURAL RESOURCES

farmer
veterinarian
agriculture teacher
welder/mechanic
forester

TOP 5 COLLEGES

the ohio state university
the university of kentucky
the university of florida
florida state university
oklahoma state university

TOP 5 COUNTRY BANDS/PERFORMERS

kenny chesney
toby keith
garth brooks
shania twain
rascal flats

TOP 5 NON-COUNTRY BANDS/PERFORMERS

ac/dc
blink 182
britney spears
eminem
50 cent

TOP 5 THINGS YOU'RE DOING THIS SUMMER

work
camp
sports
hang out with friends/family
swim/go to beach

What's Hot Survey *Pick your favorite . . .*

Major League Baseball Team _____
U.S. Presidential Candidate _____
Career in Agriculture/Food/Fiber/Natural Resources _____
FFA Career Development Event (CDE) _____
FFA Community Service Project _____
FFA Chapter Fundraiser _____
College _____
Country Band/Performer _____
Non-Country Band/Performer _____
Thing You'll Do During the Weekend _____
Fruit _____
Vegetable _____

Mail the completed survey to:

What's Hot

FFA New Horizons

P.O. Box 68960

Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960 OR e-mail to: newhorizons@ffa.org

All surveys sent to FFA New Horizons are used in tabulating the above results. Here are the FFA chapters (in alphabetical order) that sent in the most surveys:

CENTRAL HARDIN FFA
Kentucky

LAND O'LAKES FFA
Florida

LUCAS FFA
Ohio

OILTON FFA
Oklahoma

OSTELIC VALLEY FFA
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More than a blue jacket

A third-generation FFA member makes
the most of her FFA experience

By Illinois FFA member Shana Woodworth

For many people, blue corduroy jackets are what come to mind when they hear about FFA. To me, it's not only the jackets—it's a family tradition. In 1940, my grandpa became a part of FFA in Rector, Arkansas, when it was for boys only. He enjoyed the club and still has his FFA card that he recently passed down to me. My dad also joined FFA in 1981. Even though girls were able to join then, it was still largely viewed as an all-boys club. I grew up listening to my grandpa, dad and cousins talking about the FFA and their experiences. I would look at my dad's old jacket and think how neat the FFA must be. During my junior year, I started a new school and saw they had an FFA chapter. I signed up immediately. I began as chapter

historian and then moved up to being reporter. In the history of our FFA chapter, not one girl has ever made president. When elections came, I started campaigning, and with the help of my friends. I eventually became our chapter's first female president and kept my family's FFA tradition alive!

FFA Former Member Reconnect

The FFA experience has touched many lives over the past 75 years. If your parents, grandparents or other relatives were FFA members, there's now an opportunity for them to reconnect with FFA through the "FFA Former Members Reconnect" program. For more information, please visit www.ffa.org/foundation/reconnect/

Find out what's happening with Shana and the
Thompsonville FFA Chapter at:
[http://thompsonville.il.schoolwebpages.com/education/club/
club.php?sectiondetailid=430](http://thompsonville.il.schoolwebpages.com/education/club/club.php?sectiondetailid=430)



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Your Money

Tips for building your financial standing

Your Own Wheels

What you need to know when shopping for a vehicle

By Chris Hayhurst

In the market for a car or truck? Then you'd better buckle up. Shopping for a car is a lot like driving one: From the second you hit the road, you'll be faced with countless choices—and forced to make tough decisions. Just keep your hands on the wheel. You'll eventually find what you need, if not what you want—at a price you can afford.

First, ask yourself this: What kind of vehicle do you need? Are you looking for something small and lightweight—a car that will not only take you where you want to go, but also get great gas mileage? Or do you need something bigger, with more carrying capacity, like a pickup truck? Keep in mind that in general, the bigger the vehicle, the higher the fuel costs will be. With the price of gas what it is, don't overlook this extra cost.

Once you know what you need, take a look at your budget. Can you really afford that new car? Or would a used vehicle make more financial sense? There are deals to be found in both realms of the auto industry, but it's ultimately about your bottom line. If you go the used route, have the vehicle inspected by an independent mechanic before you buy. Also run a check on the vehicle identification number to ensure the car doesn't have a troubled history of wrecks (carfax.com does the job in seconds, or ask your state motor vehicle department to do a "title



history" check).

THE SEARCH

There are several ways to find just the vehicle you're looking for. The time-honored tradition is to open the classifieds of your local paper, make a few phone calls, and start the rounds, test-driving anything that strikes your interest and fits your budget.

You could also go directly to used-or new-car dealers and roam their lots in search of bargains. Beyond that, there's the Internet, a source of unlimited information on everything from vehicle safety ratings and specifications to search engines that

match buyers and sellers.

"The Internet puts everything you need to know right at your fingertips," says Melanie Webber, a spokesperson for the Internet auto-shopping site Autobytel. "And when you're shopping for a car, empowering yourself with as much information as possible is key."

CLOSING THE DEAL

If you're buying used, don't take the seller's offering price at face value. It's negotiable. Instead, turn to the Kelley Blue Book (kbb.com) to determine exactly what the car is worth. If, after inspection, the car is revealed to have minor issues that you can either ignore or fix yourself, use those problems to bring the price down.

When you're ready to make an offer, have a number in mind that you won't go over. Start well below

your high point, and see how much the seller will budge. Prices on new cars typically aren't as flexible, but they're not set in stone, either.

Before you buy, talk to the dealer about warranties, options and payment plans. By playing with the variables you should be able to lower the price to a number you can live with.

Many first-time car buyers find the best deals not online or in the paper, but through their families, friends or acquaintances.

The fact is, buying a car is a process, not something you do on a whim. Just do your homework. You'll be in the driver's seat in no time. ●

WEB LINKS

Your Pathway to Vehicle Financing (a program presented by the AFSA Education Foundation, underwritten by GMAC Financial Services): www.yourpathwaytovehiclefinancing.com ■ Other vehicle-related links: autoweb.com, autotrader.com, autobytel.com, cars.com, consumerreports.com, edmunds.com, jdpower.com, nada.org



Once you learn the discipline, you never forget.

As part of our commitment to promoting financial literacy, GM & GMAC, in cooperation with the American Financial Services Association Education Foundation, have created YourPathwaytoVehicleFinancing.com. This self-teaching Web site can help you stay on your toes.



A Friend of FFA

President Ronald Reagan, who recently passed away, became an honorary California FFA State Farmer in 1970. Later, as president of the United States, he always made time to meet with FFA members. On July 29, 1983, in the White House Rose Garden, Reagan spoke to FFA members who had travelled to Washington D.C. for FFA State Presidents' Conference. Here is a portion of the speech he made 21 years ago.

I always get a kick out of meeting with the Future Farmers of America. And I think my ties go back quite a long way. Many of my friends when I was growing up back in Illinois were Future Farmers. And I wasn't too far away from them, because I lived in the kind of a town that, even in the center of town, you weren't too far from plowed ground.

But what was then true then is still true today. And that was the Future Farmers of America does more

than give a good start to some fine young people. By cultivating leadership skills and patriotism, it ensures the strength and vitality of our country. . . .

American agriculture has been so efficient that we often tend to take the abundance of food for granted. We can be very proud that we live in one of the few countries of the world that will not tolerate hunger and that your profession could take a lion's share of the credit for our ability to live up

to that goal.

Agricultural productivity has permitted us to develop human values and to put those values into practice. And this just didn't happen by accident. Our abundance is a product of the hard work of our farmers, the skill and technological know-how that we put into agriculture and, most important, the freedom of which we're so proud here in America . . .

Well, I know that the Future



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TARGET



Farmers of America is doing its part to build character and to keep our country in the forefront of the production of food and fiber.

I'd like to congratulate you for FFA's theme this year, which I understand is "Keeping America on the Grow." You're now just emerging from some hard times that have been a long time in the making. I know things have been rough and still are for many farmers.

But I hope when you go back to your homes, you'll tell your families and your friends of our confidence that things are getting better. And while you're at it, tell them that a White House source told you personally that America's farmers are not going to be left out of the good times that lie ahead.

I hope all of you are enjoying yourselves and learning a lot while you're here in the nation's capital. And I think . . . we owe General Motors a thank-you for sponsoring this leadership conference and making it possible. This kind of enlightened support from the private sector speaks well of American business.

And let me leave you with this thought: When you go home and remember all the sights you've seen in Washington, the shrines of American liberty, remember that back at the time the ideals of our nation emerged, it was composed overwhelmingly of men and women who made their living from the land. Today, we rely on you to maintain our ties to the land and to live up to our ideals. And I know you won't let us down.

Thank you for coming over here to visit, and God bless you all. ●

WEB LINKS

For online access to this and other speeches Reagan delivered to FFA members, visit the following page on The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library's website and search for "FFA":
www.reagan.utexas.edu/re-source/speeches/rrepubpap.asp

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Blue corduroy slips over my arms
I zip it up to my neck

Feels so good to feel the warmth
Of the jacket on my body

The emblem shines upon my back
The pins glisten on my chest

My name is shown in the golden cursive
I feel proud to wear it

I look at hundreds of blue and gold bodies
at field trips for our FFA

Do they feel as proud as I do?
To wear the gold and blue?

Everything the jackets represent
The happy times, and some that were
even better

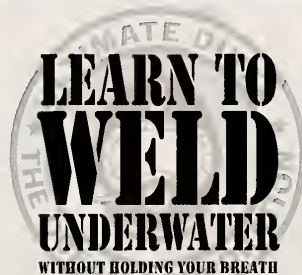
Sometimes I take it out to look at
to remember those memories

by Alyssa Paulsen

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R	O	S	I	E		O	R	A
B	O	N	E	S		K	O	S
S	P	O	R	T		E	N	E

LAST LAFF

Q: What goes around the world but stays in a corner?

A: A postage stamp.

*Eric Hendricks
Creswell, Oregon*

Q: Before Mount Everest was discovered, what was the highest point on Earth?

A: Mount Everest.

*Stacy Reid
Ottawa, Ohio*

Q: What has its heart in its head?

A: Lettuce.

*Amber Hall
Hartford, Tennessee*

Q: Why was the baseball team so rich?

A: All its bases were loaded.

*Nick Arachovitis
Syosset, New York*

Q: What occurs once a minute, twice in a moment and never in an hour?

A: "M".

*Christine Hitchcox
Center Hill, Florida*

Q: What do you call a dinosaur that's always on time?

A: Pronto-saurus.

*Thomas Butzer
Maribel, Wisconsin*

The Agrinuts

By Jim Bradshaw



Q: Why did Cinderella go to the photo store?

A: She was looking for her prints charming.

*Laura Martinez
Quitaque, Texas*

Q: Why did the man put the clock under his desk?

A: He wanted to work over time.

*Katie Mesich
Winchester, Virginia*

Q: What do you lose when you stand up?

A: Your lap.

*Mary Smithwick
Moultrie, Georgia*

Q: Where do you get dragon milk?

A: From a short-legged cow.

*Tyler Price
Huntsville, Missouri*

Q: How did the pig feel when he lost his voice?

A: Disgruntled.

*Brittany Richins
Orderville, Utah*

Q: Why didn't the teddy bear eat his dinner?

A: Because he was stuffed.

*Marsello Rodriguez
Jennings, Louisiana*

Q: Where do you put smart butter?

A: Honor roll.

*Allison Sellers
Fort Mill, South Carolina*

Q: Why did the boy eat his homework?

A: His teacher said it was a piece of cake.

*Cari Tatkenhorst
Brush, Colorado*

We pay \$5 for each printed joke. Because we receive so many jokes, we can't acknowledge receipt of submissions. E-mail your jokes to newhorizons@ffa.org or mail to FFA New Horizons, PO Box 69860, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

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Puzzler by Matt Gaffney

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8
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13				14				
15					16	17	18	19
				20	21			
22	23	24				25		
26						27		
28						29		

ACROSS

- 1 Wildlife manager Woodward
- 4 Agriculture teacher/FFA advisor Davis
- 9 One day ____ time
- 10 Seek help from: 2 wds.
- 11 Sunbeam
- 12 Gave a question to
- 13 Town where former President Carter celebrated the Georgia FFA's 75th anniversary
- 15 Lip-____ contest
- 16 "The wolf ____ the door!"
- 20 FFA eastern region vice president Anne
- 22 O'Donnell or Perez
- 25 "Are you a man ____ mouse?": 2 wds.
- 26 Skeleton parts
- 27 Beats at boxing, for short
- 28 Baseball, football, or tennis
- 29 Direction on a compass opposite WSW

DOWN

- 1 They cover baseball infields during rain delays
- 2 Country whose capital is Rome
- 3 ____ Empire (it once ruled much of Mexico)
- 4 Word in some breakfast cereal names
- 5 Country whose capital is Moscow
- 6 Liquid in a pen
- 7 Had breakfast, lunch, or dinner
- 8 Shake your head up and down to say "yes"
- 14 More disgusting
- 17 Said some words
- 18 Ohio city famous for car tires
- 19 Make fun of
- 21 Where a bird lives
- 22 Football players who run with the ball: abbr.
- 23 Alley ____ (basketball play)
- 24 ____-cone (many-colored frozen treat)

Note: Some clues are based on articles in this issue of the magazine. See page 27 for solution.



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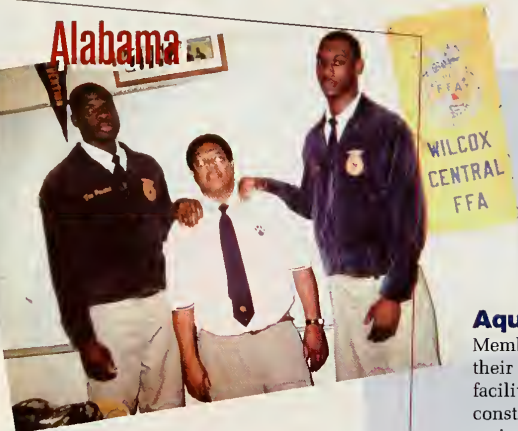
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FFA Across the USA

Dispatches from FFA chapters across the nation

Alabama



Above The Rim

As the FFA advisor of the Camden FFA Chapter, Willie Gholston has to look up when he's around FFA members Yamene Coleman (right) and Michael Williams. Both stand just a few inches shy of seven feet, and both are on the path to promising futures in basketball. Michael, a new member of the Texas Longhorns hoops squad, was among last year's top five high school players in the nation and was a McDonald's All-American. Yamene, now a high school senior, already is being heavily recruited by top collegiate basketball programs, including Duke. "A lot of the things they have learned playing and competing in basketball are the same things I teach in agriscience and practice through the FFA, and they are leadership, citizenship and cooperation," Mr. Gholston says. "So, I gave them a rigorous course of FFA and basketball."

Reporting by Mr. Willie Gholston, Camden FFA Chapter advisor

California

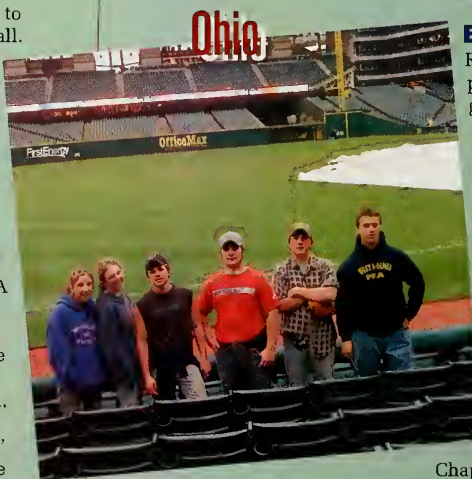


Aquaculture Facility Afloat

Members of the Sutter Creek FFA Chapter recently finished building their own fish hatchery. The advanced agriculture mechanics built the facility by constructing three 900-gallon tanks, erecting fences and constructing planters, which utilize runoff water. After construction, agriscience students began their task of raising blue channel catfish. The students' goals are to create a platform for research and student projects and to generate interest in FFA among non-agriculture students. They'll do this by inviting the science department to use one of the tanks and by having the art students paint a mural for the hatchery. Students are developing plans to sell the fish, which they hope will make the aquaculture program self-sufficient.

Reporting by the Sutter Creek FFA Chapter

Ohio



Bleacher Bums

Rain forced the cancellation of batting practice and delayed the start of the game by an hour, but that didn't dampen enthusiasm among the 63 West Homes FFA Chapter members and guests who attended a Cleveland Indians game in May. They took their seats in the bleachers behind center field and enjoyed the divisional matchup with Chicago. In the end, the White Sox prevailed, 4-2, but these faithful fans cheered their team throughout. Other events these FFA members took part in this summer—state FFA camp, the annual chapter hog roast, a chapter canoe trip and a softball game against the Riverview FFA

Chapter. Pictured here at Jacobs Field are

(from left) Clerissa Leaman, Rachel Patterson, Danny Pszenitski, Josh Martin, Matt Raber and Tyler Wallace.

Reporting by Liz Skolmutch, West Holmes FFA Chapter member

What's happening in your chapter? Send your news, along with a photo, to:
FFA New Horizons P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268
e-mail: newhorizons@ffa.org

Congratulations to the 2004 Cargill Community Scholarship Recipients

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Amy McDaniel, Gunterville, AL
Ryan Mitchell, Newell, AL
Benjamin Ward, Hartselle, AL
Alondria Wilson, Prattville, AL
Lyndee Daise, Yellville, AR
Deanna Houtman, Prairie Grove, AR
Mallory Moore, Prairie Grove, AR
James Smith, Story, AR
Amber Udowski, Pearcy, AR
Krisly Buchan, Yuma, AZ
Will Arieas, Los Banos, CA
Stephen Lee Erickson, Madera, CA
Aaron Henderson, Exeter, CA
Kevin Hicks, Elma, CA
Erk Holland, Haanford, CA
Merisha Linhares, Turlock, CA
Robert McHenry, Loyalton, CA
Christina Nijksen, Modesto, CA
Elizabeth Plummer, Ceres, CA
Lindsey Prada, Turlock, CA
Matthew Razer, Corcoran, CA
Vanessa Renwick, Kingsburg, CA
Jason Wadsworth, Corcoran, CA
Mitch Bruce, LaSalle, CO
Paula Bruzewski, Platteville, CO
Joshua Docheff, Longmont, CO
Sara Dutton, Limon, CO
Tara Friend, Peetz, CO
Calvin Gardner, Loveland, CO
Ryan Libra, Akron, CO
Chad Melton, Limon, CO
Shianne McCracken, Sietbert, CO
Jonathan Spreng, Milliken, CO
Neill Wickes, Eaton, CO
Jacqueline Lewis, West Suffield, CT
Candace Esham, Millsboro, DE
Karleena Ahrens, Spring Hill, FL
Ana Flaig, Odessa, FL
Melissa Hinton, Riverview, FL
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Courtney Blake, Walnut, IA
Nancy Jesseovee, Hopkinton, IA
Drew Ketwick, Buffalo Center, IA
Chad Latham, Mountcorno, IA
John Lynch, Cascade, IA
Rachel McCulloch, Camanche, IA
Mike Rus, Rock Valley, IA
Andrea Ryan, Columbus Junction, IA
Lindsey Schwartz, Donnellson, IA
Kyle Shipley, Nowaday, IA
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Brittany Poule, Shelley, ID
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Jessica Anderson, Chapin, IL

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Carl Jones, Ellery, IL
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Matthew Wrape, Emden, IL
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Andrew Fox, Bremen, IN
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Brittany Swackhamer, Cicero, IN
Jonathan Brookbank, Liberty, IN
Andrew Fox, Bremen, IN
Christina Harp, Crawfordsville, IN
Brittany Swackhamer, Cicero, IN
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Megan Gough, Hugoton, KS
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Kelsey Lee, Garden City, KS
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